

~~SECRET~~

25X1

OCI No. 1962/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
18 June 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Iran and Laos

1. Iran

a. Overt action by dissident tribal groups in southwestern Iran has practically ceased. The latest leader of an insurgent group, Nasir Taheri, has been deserted by most of his following and is being hunted. Terror attacks on tribal encampments by aircraft, the employment of ground units in overwhelming strength, and a paternalistic policy toward the peaceful tribes have had the desired result. Some military units which had been engaged in anti-tribal operations since March are now returning to home stations.

b. Efforts by Iranian Kurds to join the Kurdish rebels in Iraq have been rebuffed by the Iraqi leader Barzani, who, for the present, desires to maintain good relations with Tehran. There is evidence of rising pan-Kurdish sentiment among the Iranian Kurds, however, [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

Iranian ground force units stationed in Kurdish areas will probably attempt an impressive show of force in their forthcoming summer maneuvers in an effort to cow the local population.

c. Minor religious protest gatherings in Tehran on 11 June were quickly broken up by police and military units, and the closing down of business places decreed for that day by the religious dissidents was only partly successful. Life is returning to normal in the capital and other centers of

25X1

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

25X1

unrest, and curfew and martial law measures have been considerably relaxed. Religious reactionary leaders may try to spark new demonstrations on 12 July, a day of religious mourning.

2. Laos

a. Communist military activity during the past week has been directed primarily at neutralist and FAR positions in south-central and southern Laos. With the neutralist evacuation of Mahaxay and reported Pathet Lao advances near Lak Sao and Nhommarath the Communists have now virtually secured the major routes through Laos between North and South Vietnam, and they are in position to threaten Thakhek on the only north-south route which remains under government control. In the extreme south, the Communists also attacked a FAR outpost near Attoupeu but have not pursued an attack on the town itself, which is being reinforced by the FAR. Little activity was reported in the Plaine des Jarres area, but the Pathet Lao attacked a neutralist outpost near Muong Hiem to the north of the Plaine.

b. Although the Pathet Lao could be preparing for attacks on major FAR positions, particularly in the south, the pattern of their actions suggests that for the immediate future they will continue relatively small-scale actions against neutralist outposts. This is designed to consolidate their hold on most of Laotian territory except for the main FAR and neutralist positions in the Plaine des Jarres, Luang Prabang and the Mekong Valley. There continues to be little prospect that the Pathet Lao will enter into negotiations except on their own terms.

~~SECRET~~

25X1

